

POPULIST POLITICS.

Will the Farmers Organize?

During the past few months we have suggested time and again the importance of specific, intelligent, radical and united action by the people who support the colossal trusts which have grown up in our country during the last decade, especially in the last twelve months. That something must be done, and done quickly, no intelligent man can doubt. Along the line of suggestions hitherto presented, we find the following sensible article in the Indianapolis Journal, which is worthy of careful thought:

A circular, which we now have before us, makes the statement that there has been an advance on the prices of all articles used in the manufacture of farm implements, building material, etc., of more than 100 per cent. over last year's prices, and that the end is not yet. The firm that is sending out this circular advises its customers to make their purchases now, as they say the advance in prices has not yet reached the maximum. While this is the condition of things in regard to what the farmer has to buy, the price of what he raises is down at the same old mark that it has been for several years past; in fact, on some lines of products he is selling to-day at a much lower rate than he did a year ago. It is true that the price of cattle, horses and sheep is somewhat higher, but there is nothing like the increase in the price that there is in the price of all kinds of manufactured products. The result will be that the abundant crops with which the agricultural classes have been blessed this year will all be swallowed up by the enormous profits which are being exacted by the trusts, and the farmer will come out at the end of the season as poor as he was before, if not worse off. A mere statement of this fact does not help us in the matter. The chief question which we should ask ourselves is, "What are we going to do about it?"

No public man has ever offered a plan by which the trusts can be destroyed. As long as the competitive system stands as the accepted plan upon which business is to be conducted, it is utterly impossible to formulate a law that will apply to the trust (great organization of capital) which will not also affect the smaller concern. We cannot say to a man or a dozen men: "You can organize for business with a capital of \$100,000, but no more." We cannot say that 1,000 men cannot throw their capital together, do business as an association and divide profits. This is all that is necessary in order to produce all the evils which the trust is bringing. Then, what shall we do?

Let the producers meet the manufacturers on their own ground. Organize. Form yourselves into an association. Let the products of the farm be controlled and sold under one head. Establish warehouses in which to store your grain, banish the commission merchant and the board of trade. Let all the grain in the country be sold by one association. Let the association pay a certain per cent. on all grain stored and take out a percentage for the storage. Then when buyers want to buy grain let them come to the association to buy. But you say this cannot be done. Why? Because the farmers will not organize. Well, if this is so, then they are entirely to blame, and they have shown that their own lack of business sagacity is the cause of their more keen-sighted fellow men who are engaged in manufacturing, getting the best of them. But a few more lessons like the ones they are getting at present as to the benefits of organization ought to have the effect of waking the farmers up to the necessity of the case.

The day of haphazard production and sale is past. If the farmer would keep up with the procession. Manufacturing is being reduced to an exact science. Shrewd men are studying night and day for methods which will reduce the cost of what they are making. Others are seeking to reduce the cost of getting the product to the consumer. Every unnecessary expense is being eliminated. If an article can be made cheaper on a big scale than on a small one, it is made that way. Then, when the article is placed on the market, if there is a competitor who is making it necessary to cut the price, if it can be done, he is squeezed out of the way. If that cannot be done, he is bought up. Thus the field is left open to them. Advertising is then unnecessary. Traveling men are not needed. The samples need not be so numerous and the sale is assured, for there is no one else to whom the merchant can go for what he wants. Do we like it? No. But that is not the point. It is here, and the only way to avoid its evil consequences is to meet it on its own ground. The ultimate outcome will be State factories and co-operative institutions. Mankind will learn through them that all this struggle to crush each other is unnecessary. They will learn that when shoes are to be made the thing to do is to make them as cheaply as is possible and sell them for something else; that all these middlemen, who are now nothing more nor less than that much of a burden, can be dispensed with, and that supplies can be drawn from a vast system of storehouses, which can be operated at a nominal cost. He will learn that it is not true economy to let grain rot in storehouses while men and women are starving, yet ready and willing to perform service to pay for the food they need. But it will take time for us to learn these things, and this most vital teaching men that

If one man has a thing to sell, he will get all he can for it. If he can get ten times what it is worth he will do so. The one who is buying will pay no more than he has to, and if he can get the article for nothing he will do so. A famine is a blessing to the man with a full crib. The public laughs in high glee when the merchant becomes overstocked with goods and is compelled to sell at half what the goods cost him to avoid bankruptcy. People flock like vultures around the widow's household goods when they are to be sold on the auction block to pay the mortgage she has placed upon them at ruinous interest, to pay for food to keep her babies from starving through the winter, and when a purchase is made at a small per cent. of its actual value, the purchaser walks away with a broad smile at the thought of the "bargain" he has made. All this may be "business," but it is not God-like. It may be necessary in order to "develop energy," but it does not develop nobility of character, lofty ideals, or a high moral sense of justice. No man can be successful in the combat who loves his neighbor as himself.

It is all wrong, but perhaps we are not yet far enough up in the scale of civilization to attempt to change it. And when the change does come it is more likely to come through the discovery that the best interests of all can be best subserved by mutual co-operation and mutual assistance.

As we said in the beginning of this article, the co-operation of the rich for self-protection is an object lesson. If the rich can co-operate, and are gainers, why cannot the poor? If the rich can become richer by working together, why will not the same plan be beneficial to the man at the plow and the man with the hoe?

The American House of Lords.

It must be interesting to the readers of the Mercury to know that the United States Senate, as at present constituted, represents more wealth than can be found in any other law-making body in the world. Though more than half their constituency are farmers, there is not a farmer in the list.

The wealth of twenty-six out of the forty-six who comprise that lordly body of parasites, known as the United States Senate, is as follows:

Chauncey M. Depew (Rep.), New York, personal wealth, \$2,000,000.
William Andrew Clark (Dem.), Montana, mine owner, banker and manufacturer, \$50,000,000.
Marcus Alonzo Hanna (Rep.), Ohio, coal and iron mine owner and manufacturer, railroad and steamship lines and banker, \$12,000,000.
Stephens Benton Elkins (Rep.), West Virginia, coal and iron mines and railroads, \$7,000,000.
John Percival Jones (Silver), Nevada, coal and silver mines, \$10,000,000.
Redford Proctor (Rep.), Vermont, lawyer, \$7,000,000.
John Kean (Rep.), New Jersey, lawyer and banker, \$5,000,000.
Thomas Collier Platt (Rep.), New York, express company, banker and commercial interests, \$5,000,000.
George Peabody Wetmore (Rep.), Rhode Island, banker, lawyer and capitalist, \$5,000,000.
Nathan B. Scott (Rep.), West Virginia, capitalist, \$2,000,000.
William Morris Stewart (Silver), Nevada, lawyer and gold and silver mine owner, \$2,000,000.

Nelson W. Aldrich (Rep.), Rhode Island, street railway magnate, \$1,000,000.
Addison G. Foster (Rep.), Washington, lumber, coal and shipping, \$2,500,000.
James McMillan (Rep.), Michigan, lumber, \$5,000,000.
Edward Oliver Wolcott (Rep.), Colorado, lawyer and mining, \$2,000,000.
Henry Cabot Lodge (Rep.), Massachusetts, literature, \$2,000,000.
Charles Warren Fairbanks (Rep.), Indiana, lawyer, \$1,000,000.
Joseph Benson Foraker (Rep.), Ohio, lawyer, \$1,000,000.
William J. Sewall (Rep.), New Jersey, railroads and banking, \$2,000,000.
Joseph V. Quarles (Rep.), Wisconsin, lawyer and lumber, \$1,500,000.
Boies Penrose (Rep.), Pennsylvania, lawyer, \$1,000,000.
Francis E. Warren (Rep.), Wyoming, ranchman, \$1,500,000.
Eugene Hale (Rep.), Maine, lawyer, \$1,665,000.
George C. Perkins (Rep.), California, steamship and banking, \$5,000,000.
George Shoup (Rep.), Idaho, sheep and mine owner, \$1,000,000.
Joseph Simon (Rep.), Oregon, lawyer, \$1,000,000.

The Admiral's Answer.

When not engaged in any stupendous victories, the hero of the hour apparently occupies himself with saying good things, which are now closing in round him in a way to suggest the veil of clouds with which the Homeric gods shrouded their favorites. Says a writer in the Independent:

"At Singapore, where the Olympia stopped several days, the population is doubtless the most heterogeneous of all cities. There are Malays, Javanese, Dyaks, Chinese, Japanese, Persians, Hindus, Khonds, Tamals, English, Americans, French, Germans, Dutch, Spanish and Portuguese. A British official was commingling upon it to Admiral Dewey and remarked:

"It is the most motley gathering extant. We have every race here unless it be the Tagals."
"Dewey could not resist the temptation to express a humorous thought, and said:

"I think if you communicate with me, he will be glad to spare you a hundred of them."
The Laughing Cure.
An Italian doctor who specially attends laughter as a cure for various ailments. The diseases influenced thereby are numerous, and range from bronchitis to anæmia. It is interesting to see how the treatment is effected.

There is undoubtedly a great opening for professional gelotherepautists—very name makes one smile—who would study various ways of inducing laughter. A course of tickling is prescribed for bronchitis, for example; a course of farical comedies might suit an anæmic patient; while puns, fitted off at intervals, would be found efficacious in case of pleurisy.

Bacon entered Cambridge at 13; at 16 he wrote against the Aristotelean logic; at 26 he had completed the "Norvum Organum."



ANEC DOTE INCIDENT

Baron Alderson once remarked to an advocate who was notorious for the personal nature of the questions he addressed to witnesses, "Really, you seem to think that the art of cross-examination is to examine crossly."

The late Lord Watson had a habit of interrupting counsel, and this often caused irritation. One distinguished advocate once reproached him on this account in private. "Eh, man," said Lord Watson, "you need not complain, for I never interrupted a fool!"

William T. Stead was moved to send a copy of his brochure, "Shall I Slay My Brother Boer?" to two London editors. One reply ran somewhat thus: "Dear Mr. Stead: What, in heaven's name, have I to do with your family affairs? Yours sincerely, ————". And the other: "My Dear Sir: By all means—if he insists upon it. Yours faithfully, ————".

"It is a constant wonder to me," said the student of human nature, "to see how quickly the minds of some men act. I met a man the other evening who had an intellectual grasp that was astounding. I met him in the hall just as he was reaching for an umbrella. 'Is that your umbrella?' he inquired. 'No,' replied I. 'In that case,' he answered, 'it's mine.'"

Tom Corwin had an enormous mouth. He once said he had been insulted by Deacon Smith. The good brother asked for further explanation. "Well," said Corwin, "when I stood up at the lecture-room to relate my experience, and I opened my mouth, Deacon Smith rose up in front, and said: 'Will some brother please close that window and keep it closed?'"

Dr. Emily Blackwell, one of the pioneers of her sex in medicine, heard a physician deliver a fierce diatribe against opening the doors of the profession to women. When he ceased, she asked: "Will you please tell me one reason why they should not practice medicine?" "Certainly, madam; they haven't the muscle, the brawn, the physical strength." "I see, sir. Your conception of a sick-room is a slaughter-house; mine is not."

Half a dozen back-country Boers once went to Pretoria, and during the day President Kruger showed them over the government buildings. In one of the rooms an electric lamp was burning, and as they passed out the President switched his hand on the switch, asking them to blow out the light from where they stood. One after another drew a deep breath, blew out his checks, and sent forth a tremendous puff, but all in vain. Then the President bade them look, and blowing out his checks, slyly turned the switch, blew, and out went the light. The Boers were amazed, and as they left the buildings one of them who had been more observant than the rest, remarked: "The President must have a wonderfully strong breath, for did you notice, the light was entirely inclosed in glass."

On one occasion Lord Northbury observed an attorney of doubtful reputation prospecting in the dock for business, and determined to make an example of him. Just as the attorney was climbing over the rails of the dock into the court, his lordship called out: "Faller, one of your prisoners is escaping. Put him back." Back the attorney was thrust, and the following colloquy ensued: "My lord, there is a mistake here. I am an attorney." "I am very sorry indeed," said Lord Northbury, "to see one of your profession in the dock." "But, my lord, I am innocent." "Yes, they all say that," was the judge's reply; "a jury of your own fellow-countrymen must settle it." "But, my lord," exclaimed the now desperate man, "there is no indictment against me." "Then," said his lordship, "you will be put back, and if no one appears to prosecute, you will be discharged by public proclamation at the end of the assizes."

SOLDIERS DIG FOR TREASURE.

Our Men Are Dreaming of Becoming Monte Cristos.

"I have a cousin in the Thirty-third Infantry, now in Manila," said an employe of one of the city hotels to a New Orleans Times-Democrat man, "and he says in a letter which I received from him the other day that all the men in his company are badly worked up on the subject of buried treasure.

"It seems that one of the privates, while prowling about a deserted Filipino house a few weeks before the latter was written, found a small wooden box buried in the yard, containing \$600 in Spanish gold. He reported the discovery, and an effort was made to locate the owner of the money, but he had disappeared in the hurry-burry, and the supposition is that he was probably killed in some engagement. At any rate the soldier was allowed to retain the coin, and the episode naturally excited everybody in the ranks. My cousin says that a number of such finds have been made by men in other companies, and that the burying of money and articles of jewelry appears to have been a common practice among the Filipinos as they retreated before the American troops.

"The consequence is that the ground around their ruined homes is being industriously prodded with bayonets, and all our men are dreaming of becoming Monte Cristos."

Game Horses.

"I've seen many a thing on race tracks, but I think the greatest race I ever saw was at New Orleans a few years ago," remarked a track follower the other day.

"It was several years ago at New Orleans, and one of the best horses to bet on was Duke of Milpas, owned by Ald. Casey, of Chicago. But he was a rogue, and whenever he took it into his head to run no one could beat him, but if he balked nothing could budge him. On this particular day he was a warm favorite, as he distance was seven-eighths, the going heavy and all conditions just to the liking of the Duke. He went out of the start all right, but he was lashed out of sorts, and no amount of lashing could make him budge. Finally a 'twitch' was sent for and the assistant starter sent for the Duke

tooting the mark. Finally he showed inclinations to run, and down went the flag, with the Duke off in front. The 'twitch' had caught on his nose in some manner and the stick kept hitting him on the legs and chest. Despite this—or, perhaps, on account of it—the Duke ran faster than he ever did before. He won all the way, with the 'twitch' hanging to his nose. Ald. Casey won a small fortune on his horse, and has the same old 'twitch' hanging in his private office to this day."

"CON" MAN.

Caused a Well-Known Firm to Withdraw Its Bank Deposit.

"Do you know that there has often caused trouble among business firms?" remarked a well-known detective the other day. "I know of a case right here where a bank lost a big depositor through a pair of swindlers. A few years ago a well-dressed man presented himself at a certain national bank and laid down a check for \$3,000. It was signed by a well-known wholesale whiskey house, and upon the back were the words 'Identification waived.' At the same time a well-dressed man entered the office of a live stock firm at the same bank and asked if he could wait in the office, as he expected a telephone message. He was told that he could, and he took a seat near the telephone. Down in the bank the paying teller was asking who the holder of the check was. He said not very many firms—'he was a stock dealer, but if the teller would call up Mr. Smith, of Jones & Smith, the well-known brokers at the stock yards, he would find out that he was all right. The teller called for the number, and when the ring answered he asked for Smith. The man on the end said he was Smith, and he at once gave Brown, the holder, the amount of the check. When it was discovered that the check was a forgery there was an awful kick, as Smith said Brown was as good as gold. Smith declared he had talked to no one, and the result was an argument between Smith and the bank teller. No one knew about the accomplice, answering the 'phone, and the result was that Smith took his account from the bank and no one ever knew who it was who answered the telephone."

NEW USES FOR GLASS.

Pavement Tested in Lyons Has Proved Perfectly Satisfactory.

The United States consul at Lyons has recently reported upon a new kind of pavement which has for some months been in use in Lyons, and has satisfactorily withstood the effects of heavy traffic, says Chambers' Journal. It is made of glass prepared in a peculiar manner, the product being known as ceramic stone. The factories where this material is prepared are of great extent, and we are told that in the yards were seen many tons of broken bottles, which the superintendent described as their "raw material." The treatment consists in heating the broken glass to the melting point, and then compressing it by hydraulic pressure and forming it into molds. For paving purposes the glass is made into bricks eight inches square and is scored with crosslines, so that when the pavement is completed it resembles a huge chessboard. The glass loses its transparency and brittleness, and is said to be devitrified; it is as cheap as stone and far more durable. It will resist crushing, frost and heavy shocks and can be employed for tubes, vases, tiles, chimneys, etc. It is available for all kinds of decorative purposes; and a large building made of the material will form an attractive object at Paris's exhibition.

GREATNESS.

As Distinguished from Learning in Men Who Achieve Eminence.

It is a common error to confound learning with greatness. The fact that a medical student of this day knows more of the science of medicine than Dr. Abernethy did does not prove he is a greater man. The fact that the average sophomore in one of our colleges knows more of the laws of nature, of chemistry, of the sciences and of languages than Socrates knew does not prove that the former is the greater man. The fact that the ordinary naval cadet could take a torpedo boat and sink Lord Nelson and the Victory in a few minutes does not prove that the latter is a greater naval commander. John Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" has been read by more people, and will in years to come be read by more people, than any book written by the most learned man of his own or subsequent times, and yet Bunyan was a tinker by trade and was as ignorant of the rules of grammar as he was of the binomial theorem. No one can dispute the genius of Bunyan. Greater inventions and discoveries have been made in our time than were ever made by Jenner, or Watts, or Sir Isaac Newton. But it is likely the credit of not one of the great modern inventions can be ascribed to any one man. Morse alone did not invent the magnetic telegraph; Bell did not alone conceive the idea of the telephone, nor was the typesetting machine the exclusive work of one man.

There was among the great men of the past an individuality, which distinguished few living men. The average ability of physicians was as great, perhaps, in Abernethy's time as it is now. And yet he stood high above them, and almost without a rival. The average ability of the United States Senator was, perhaps, as great or greater in the last generation than it is to-day. And yet the three great Senators, Calhoun, Webster and Clay, stood high above the rest, and if they were in the Senate to-day their pre-eminence would probably be as undisputed. It may be true there are many men now living in the United States who may justly be regarded as great men, but there are few in the ranks of life so great that their position is entirely undisputed.—Bacon more Sun.

REASON FOR PIRACY'S DECAY.

Masters of Trading Ships No Long Carry Specie with Them.

A son of the old-time yachting elite, Jack White, of Red Bank, as told a Mexican silver dollar of 1834 Sandy Hook the other day. Capt. J.

MANY OLD WATCHES.

NEW YORK MAN'S COLLECTION OF TIMEPIECES.

Ornamentation of the Bridge Was the Part of a Watch that the English Maker Used to Expend Most Labor and Pains Upon.

Two thousand watch movements; 2,000 detached bridges; 100 old watches. These are approximate figures for the collection, not yet classified and numbered, of Calvin Rae Smith, professor of drawing in the College of the City of New York.

The bridge of the watch is the metal plate at the back of the works which covers and receives the axle, jeweled or otherwise, of the balance wheel. In the old hand-made watches the plate was exquisitely wrought and appears to view when the brass cap is removed which covers the movement under the various outer cases. It is estimated that one-third of the labor of making a watch of the early period was expended on the bridge. No two hand-made bridges are ever alike. None of the old watches contains a date, and until the English law of 1740 it was not compulsory for the London maker to affix his name or the number of the watch.

The movements made in London in the last century for the Chinese market are recognized at once by the peculiar pattern of the bridge ornament. It is said that a Chinaman who could afford to carry a watch at all carried two—to be a check on each other. This bridge, upon which the watchmaker exhausted himself in ornamentation, is the key to the period to which the watch belonged.

It was customary to engrave a head, sometimes at the upper but more often at the lower edge of the bridge. In the earliest watches it was a female head; afterward it was the head of a lion or sometimes of an eagle. By and by the popular hero of the day began to be handed down to posterity on the bridges of the watches. In Mr. Smith's collection we find portraits of such distinguished people as Major Andre, George III., Toussaint l'Ouverture, George IV., Lord Chatham, Admiral Nelson and Lord North.

At the time when the tulip craze invaded England from Holland the conventional tulip appears in the bridges and pillars of the watches of the day. It is an axiom of the collector that the modern watchmaker is densely ignorant of the mechanism and value of an old watch. One of the finest movements in Mr. Smith's collection dates the hours, the quarters and the minutes. The bell is a coil of steel encircling the works, which at the time Mr. Smith discovered it the jeweler was about to take off and throw away. Among all the watchmakers of New York there are only three or four experts in old movements who could repair a London or Nuremberg watch of 100 years ago.

Most of the old movements were cased in silver. Only Dukes and Princes aspired to gold. The jewelers nowadays buy these queer old bull's eyes over the counter for the value of the cases, and except in a few rare instances the latter go promptly into the melting pot. Occasionally a case made of tortoise shell, or covered with shark skin, or made of an alloy called pinchbeck, saves a fine old timekeeper from destruction.

The oldest watch of the collection was made about 1630 by Thomas Tompion, who died in 1730, such a famous watchmaker that his remains were entombed in Westminster Abbey. Tompion is called the "Father of English Watchmakers," and side by side with him in the famous abode lies George Graham, another illustrious watchmaker. This old timepiece has but one hand, the dial being spaced only in hours and quarter hours.

To be prepared for emergencies, many of the European monarchs have large amounts of money on deposit in the Bank of England. Napoleon III., when he saw that his star was on the wane, contrived to send a vast sum to England's great bank. This deposit enabled Empress Eugenie to live in dignity and luxury.

Natal, the name of the South African colony, is pronounced Nattal, with the accent on the last syllable, the name being pronounced like a "far." The coast of Natal was discovered on Christmas Day, 1497, by the Portuguese, under Vasco Da Gama, who named it in honor of the day—dies natalis, in Latin; natal, in Portuguese—Natal.

The following curious bit of English appeared the other day in the Nantucket Inquirer and Mirror: "Stillman C. Cash caught a hook in his finger Saturday while codfishing off 'Sconset. He was unable to extricate it and had to take his anchor and row ashore with it probing the flesh all the time. Dr. B. F. Pitman removed it."

The Kashmir railway is to be constructed over 186 miles in the most mountainous part of India. It will be operated by electricity, water power being used. This permits of a much lighter motor for drawing the same load and also permits of grades which a steam engine could not climb without recourse to the rack system.

A firm of fish dealers in Mobile, Ala., is experimenting with a railroad tank car in which, if successful, they will transport Spanish mackerel, pompano, gulf bluefish and other Southern fishes alive to Northern cities. They believe that necessary aeration and regulation of temperature in a sufficient quantity of sea water will be feasible.

Numerous fine specimens of the kind of fine clay known as kaolin having been missed from the exhibits of the State geological department of Georgia, detectives were put to work to investigate. The missing specimens were found in the hands of a man named Williams, a hotel-keeper who employed them, had eaten them. The woman turns out to be a regular Georgia clay eater.

Two years ago a Brown County farmer gave his daughter two chickens and promised to feed the increase for four years, provided she would take care of them. He says she has \$64 in the bank and has 200 chickens that he will have to feed this winter. He also says that at the end of four years she will own the farm and will be charging him rent for living on it.

After observing the antics of some folks the theory that man descended from the monkey doesn't seem so ridiculous.

said it reminded him of many a dollar he had seen that had been picked up along the Jersey coast and on Long Island shores.

"Mexican silver dollars," he said, "were the money of the commercial world during all the early part of this century, and you could find them whenever there were wrecks. Nowadays pirating would not pay, but in those days every ship had to carry a lot of money every time she went on a voyage. Nowadays a captain doesn't have to have anything but a bit of pocket money, and it is a fact that many a ship goes on a voyage with hardly a dollar on board. If the captain needs anything he can either draw money at any port or else finds credit there."

"It was very different a generation ago. In those days a captain had to take out with him money enough to last him for the whole voyage, and something for emergencies besides. He often had big sums aboard, also, that were used in trading, or that represented a cargo sold."

"It was not uncommon in those days for a ship to start out with a full cargo, bound for some foreign port, where the captain would have to hunt his own market. If the cargo wouldn't sell well there, he had power to go to any other port to hunt a profitable market. Then, when he had sold out, he was expected to buy a new cargo, either for a home port, or, perhaps, some other part of the world. It was not unusual for a captain to handle half a dozen cargoes on a long trading voyage, and come home in ballast, with a big box of silver dollars to help keel his ship up to the wind. Even the little vessels carried a lot of money aboard."

"I guess that dollar was wrecked three fifty years or so ago, and it has been drifting around in the sands ever since."

Science AND Invention

More steel is used in the manufacture of pens than in all the sword and gun factories in the world.

According to chemical analysis, fifteen parts of the flesh of fish have about the same nutritive value as twelve parts of boneless beef.

The principal ingredients in the composition of smokeless powder are gun-cotton and nitro-glycerine. Some other substances are added, however, in small quantities.

An object, like an iron anchor, that is thrown into the ocean and is free to sink, will go to the very bottom, no matter how deep the sea may be. The notion that at a certain depth the density of the water increases to a point exceeding that of iron, and that the object would there be suspended, is erroneous.

Prof. Dewar has at length succeeded in solidifying hydrogen. In its compact form, solid hydrogen is a transparent ice, but owing to rapid ebullition it usually appears as a foamy white mass. Its mean temperature is 16 degrees centigrade above absolute zero.

Prof. Dewar says, with reference to his latest achievement: "The last doubt as to the possibility of solid hydrogen having a metallic character has been removed, and for the future hydrogen must be classed among the non-metallic elements."

Before the Biological Society of Washington O. F. Cook described his studies of the African termites, or white ants. Certain individuals in every nest have no other apparent function except that of fighters or soldiers. Some have a long beak from which they eject an acid, corrosive fluid; others inspire terror by making a loud clicking noise with their mandibles, but they neither shoot nor bite. One singular observation of Mr. Cook was that the soldier ants which rush out to defend an attacked nest "do not return to the nest, but wander about and soon perish from exposure to the outside air."

It is said that there is not a stream rising in the mountains of Luzon—and the same is true of other islands of the Philippine group—which has not its gold-bearing sands. The alluvial deposits of the precious metal have been gathered for many years, but no thorough exploration for gold at its sources in the mountains has ever been made, because the Spaniards were unable to conquer the tribes inhabiting the interior regions. Some of these tribes are said to look upon the digging up of the earth as a sacrilege, and they will not seek gold in that way, nor permit others to do it, lest the wrath of the gods should grow hot against them.

During a violent thunder storm at Ithaca, N. Y., last summer a writer for the Companion was surprised to observe, several times in succession, a short luminous streak which appeared at a particular point in the clouds, and remained visible about two seconds at a time. It was probably an example of the rare phenomenon called bead lightning, described by Prof. Ellhu Thomson at the recent meeting of the American Association. When seen to advantage it resembles a string of luminous beads hung in a cloud, "the beads being somewhat elliptical and the ends of their axes in the line of their discharge being colored red and purple respectively."

As seen at Ithaca the line was viewed nearly end on, and there was only a suggestion of color visible.

HOW A BRIDGE IS ANCHORED.

Longitudinal Section Showing Anchoring of New East River Structure.

The new East River bridge of New York will be the largest, strongest and handsomest of the large suspension bridges of the world. Its entire length between terminals will be 7,200 feet, the length of the main span, center to center of towers, will be 1,660 feet, and

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According to chemical analysis, fifteen parts of the flesh of fish have about the same nutritive value as twelve parts of boneless beef.

The principal ingredients in the composition of smokeless powder are gun-cotton and nitro-glycerine. Some other substances are added, however, in small quantities.

An object, like an iron anchor, that is thrown into the ocean and is free to sink, will go to the very bottom, no matter how deep the sea may be. The notion that at a certain depth the density of the water increases to a point exceeding that of iron, and that the object would there be suspended, is erroneous.

Prof. Dewar has at length succeeded in solidifying hydrogen. In its compact form, solid hydrogen is a transparent ice, but owing to rapid ebullition it usually appears as a foamy white mass. Its mean temperature is 16 degrees centigrade above absolute zero.

Prof. Dewar says, with reference to his latest achievement: "The last doubt as to the possibility of solid hydrogen having a metallic character has been removed, and for the future hydrogen must be classed among the non-metallic elements."

Before the Biological Society of Washington O. F. Cook described his studies of the African termites, or white ants. Certain individuals in every nest have no other apparent function except that of fighters or soldiers. Some have a long beak from which they eject an acid, corrosive fluid; others inspire terror by making a loud clicking noise with their mandibles, but they neither shoot nor bite. One singular observation of Mr. Cook was that the soldier ants which rush out to defend an attacked nest "do not return to the nest, but wander about and soon perish from exposure to the outside air."

It is said that there is not a stream rising in the mountains of Luzon—and the same is true of other islands of the Philippine group—which has not its gold-bearing sands. The alluvial deposits of the precious metal have been gathered for many years, but no thorough exploration for gold at its sources in the mountains has ever been made, because the Spaniards were unable to conquer the tribes inhabiting the interior regions. Some of these tribes are said to look upon the digging up of the earth as a sacrilege, and they will not seek gold in that way, nor permit others to do it, lest the wrath of the gods should grow hot against them.

During a violent thunder storm at Ithaca, N. Y., last summer a writer for the Companion was surprised to observe, several times in succession, a short luminous streak which appeared at a particular point in the clouds, and remained visible about two seconds at a time. It was probably an example of the rare phenomenon called bead lightning, described by Prof. Ellhu Thomson at the recent meeting of the American Association. When seen to advantage it resembles a string of luminous beads hung in a cloud, "the beads being somewhat elliptical and the ends of their axes in the line of their discharge being colored red and purple respectively."

As seen at Ithaca the line was viewed nearly end on, and there was only a suggestion of color visible.

HOW A BRIDGE IS ANCHORED.

Longitudinal Section Showing Anchoring of New East River Structure.

The new East River bridge of New York will be the largest, strongest and handsomest of the large suspension bridges of the world. Its entire length between terminals will be 7,200 feet, the length of the main span, center to center of towers, will be 1,660 feet, and

To be prepared for emergencies, many of the European monarchs have large amounts of money on deposit in the Bank of England. Napoleon III., when he saw that his star was on the wane, contrived to send a vast sum to England's great bank. This deposit enabled Empress Eugenie to live in dignity and luxury.

Natal, the name of the South African colony, is pronounced Nattal, with the accent on the last syllable, the name being pronounced like a "far." The coast of Natal was discovered on Christmas Day, 1497, by the Portuguese, under Vasco Da Gama, who named it in honor of the day—dies natalis, in Latin; natal, in Portuguese—Natal.

The following curious bit of English appeared the other day in the Nantucket Inquirer and Mirror: "Stillman C. Cash caught a hook in his finger Saturday while codfishing off 'Sconset. He was unable to extricate it and had to take his anchor and row ashore with it probing the flesh all the time. Dr. B. F. Pitman removed it."

The Kashmir railway is to be constructed over 186 miles in the most mountainous part of India. It will be operated by electricity, water power being used. This permits of a much lighter motor for drawing the same load and also permits of grades which a steam engine could not climb without recourse to the rack system.

A firm of fish dealers in Mobile, Ala., is experimenting with a railroad tank car in which, if successful, they will transport Spanish mackerel, pompano, gulf bluefish and other Southern fishes alive to Northern cities. They believe that necessary aeration and regulation of temperature in a sufficient quantity of sea water will be feasible.

Numerous fine specimens of the kind of fine clay known as kaolin having been missed from the exhibits of the State geological department of Georgia, detectives were put to work to investigate. The missing specimens